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CLAIMS

- 5 1. A hair treatment composition comprising a hydroxy compound having the following parameters:
- (i) $S_{\text{SOH}} < 9.26$;
 - (ii) $\text{BIC} > 0.8$;
 - (iii) $S_{\text{SCH}_3} < 6.26$ and;
 - 10 (iv) a molecular weight greater than 90μ .
- wherein the composition does not dye hair.
2. A hair treatment composition according to claim 1 in
15 which the molecular weight of the hydroxy compound is from 101 to 131.
3. A hair treatment composition according to claim 1 or
20 claim 2 in which the hydroxy compound has from 5 to 8 carbon atoms
4. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding
claim in which the hydroxy compound has a methyl side
chain.
- 25 5. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim in which the hydroxy compound is selected from the group consisting of 2-methyl-2-hexanol, 2-methyl-2-heptanol, 2-methyl-3-heptanol, 2-methyl-2-pentanol, 2-methyl-3-hexanol, 3-methyl-2-pentanol, 2-methyl-1-pentanol and mixtures thereof.
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6. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim in which the total amount of hydroxy compound present in the composition is from 0.01 to 5 wt%
- 5 7. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim further comprising a surfactant.
8. A hair treatment composition according to any preceding claim which comprises an aqueous base.
- 10 9. Use of a composition according to any preceding claim for smoothing hair.
- 15 10. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 for aligning hair.
11. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 for preventing damage to the hair.
- 20 12. A method of treating hair by applying a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8 to the hair.